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C.I.A. Data Cited as Challenge to B-1

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 — Senator Ted Stevens said today that the Central Intelligence Agency had told a subcommittee that existing B-52 bombers could penetrate Soviet air defenses until 1990, contrary to the Administration's chief argument for building the new long-range B-1 bomber.

Senator Stevens, Republican of Alaska, who heard the C.I.A. testimony in closed session, said later at an open hearing that the agency's information would contribute to "substantial conflict" in Congress over the B-1.

Mr. Stevens, chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, favors skipping the B-1 and developing the advanced technology, called "stealth," that could enable warplanes to evade radar detection. He and his counterpart in the House, Representative Joseph P. Addabbo, Democrat of Queens, contend that the United States does not need and cannot afford to build two new bomber fleets: the B-1 for this decade and aircraft equipped with the stealth technology in the early 1990's.

Mr. Addabbo, in a brief interview in a House corridor, said, "The B-1 should go into a museum and we could go ahead with the advanced technology bomber." Congressional officials said his subcommittee had also received the same information on Soviet air defenses from the intelligence agency.

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, who testified along with Gen.

David C. Jones, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before Senator Stevens's subcommittee, seemed to be taken aback by the Senator's report on the C.I.A. testimony.

Mr. Weinberger had just testified that the United States would not be capable of penetrating Soviet air defenses in the last five years of this decade without the B-1, which would be an advanced version of the bomber canceled by President Carter in 1977.

When Mr. Stevens unexpectedly disclosed the intelligence agency's estimate, Mr. Weinberger asserted that, "I haven't seen any indication that the B-52 will be able to penetrate beyond mid-decade." He said he wanted to see the information on which the C.I.A. estimate was based.

Also in his prepared testimony, Mr. Weinberger for the first time disclosed how the Administration planned to spend \$180 billion in a proposed five-part program to improve the nation's strategic nuclear armament.

\$20.5 Billion for B-1

A third of that sum would go toward development and construction of the B-1 and stealth technology bombers, with the B-1 program costing \$20.5 billion for 100 planes, Mr. Weinberger said. A relatively small amount would also be spent on air-launched cruise missiles.

Another \$42 billion would go toward building Trident submarines and to arm them with D-5 ballistic missiles, more accurate and powerful than the current C-4 missiles. The Electric Boat Company of Groton, Conn., officially turned

over the first Trident submarine, the Ohio, to the Navy today. The ship is scheduled to be commissioned Nov. 11.

The MX intercontinental missile program, which has so far been the most hotly debated aspect of the new plan, would require \$34 billion. Mr. Weinberger said that as many as 50 of the new missiles might be placed in extra-hardened silos, rather than 36 as he had previously announced. But he added that fewer might go into such silos if a better basing method could be developed by 1984.

Mr. Weinberger said the Administration would seek \$23 billion to improve warning systems, conduct research on defense against ballistic missiles, pursue development of an anti-satellite system and to expand civil defense.

Improved Communications Sought

Last in cost but first in priority, the Administration wants to spend \$18 billion to improve command and control systems that the President and his senior aides would use to communicate with the forces armed with nuclear weapons.

Senator Stevens, in the hearing this morning, contended that the B-1 was "really nothing more than a hedge" until the stealth-technology bomber came into operation. He asserted that the United States, with its advanced space technology, should be able to develop the stealth bomber without spending \$20 billion on the B-1.

Mr. Weinberger argued that the B-1 was not a hedge "but a cover over a period when we cannot guarantee penetration" of Soviet air defenses. He maintained that a date for the deployment of the stealth-technology bomber was not certain because it was still in the development stage.